BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC AFFA

EXHIBIT No.

montana optometric association DATE

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Senate Bill 153

Testimony of Montana Optometric Association Before the Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs **Committee** January 18, 2007

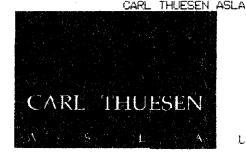
For the record, my name is Sue Weingartner, Executive Director of the Montana Optometric Association. We are in support of SB 153.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Department of Labor and its staff for the open and cooperative manner in which shareholders were informed and involved prior to this bill having been brought forward.

Optometrists and nurses both need the provisions in this bill that include optometrists in the list of health care providers that can prescribe patient orders to be administered by nursing staff. One example is the nursing home patients that receive medical eve care from an optometrist. The optometrist needs the authority to prescribe orders for nursing care for these patients, and nursing staff needs the authority to administer the optometrist's orders. This bill grants that authority.

We ask for your support of SB 153.

Sue Weingartner, Executive Director Montana Optometric Association 36 South Last Chance Gulch, Suite A Helena, MT 59601 406.443.1160 406.443.4614 fax suew@mteyes.com



GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

January 17, 2007

Senate Business, Labor & Economic Affairs Committee FAX 444-4875

RE: SB 54 hearing 1/18/07

Dear Committee Members:

Please enter this letter as my testimony pertaining to the subject hearing.

I have been practicing landscape architecture in the private sector in Montana since 1973. Currently I am licensed in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, and hold a nationally recognized Council of Landscape Architectural Review Boards (CLARB) certificate. I also currently serve on the Board of Landscape Architects, however the following comments are made as an individual.

I support SB 54 as drafted. Over the past two years the Board of Landscape Architects has taken significant action to reduce operating costs and to increase revenue in an effort to balance its' operating budget. Merger with the Board of Architects will complete this action plan, resulting in a financially stable combined Board.

In their meeting of January 10, 2006, the Board of Architects agreed to the merger proposal and creation of a combined Board with 3 architect members, 2 landscape architect members, and 1 public member. As presented at that meeting, separate fees would be maintained for each profession, enabling the landscape architect licensees to fully support the cost for two board members and associated administrative and other distributed costs.

It is important that a combined board have at least two landscape architect members so that continuity may be retained through the use of staggered appointments for those representatives. The purpose of the Board is not to represent the professions, but rather to represent and protect the people of Montana with respect to those professions. Two landscape architect members are needed on the Board to effectively accomplish this charge. architects will not be affected in any way through this structure.

Wyoming has had a combined Board of Architects and Landscape Architects since enactment of licensing for landscape architects there in 1992. In my experience this combined Board functions very well. I believe a similarly structured Board can be equally effective in Montana.

Sincerely

Carl A. Thaesen, ASLA Landscape Architect